

**Minutes of the
CAREE Annual Meeting
March 11, 2000**

1. Present: 12 members. (At 50 paid memberships for 1999, five would be needed to constitute a quorum required to conduct the annual meeting; thus, a quorum was present and the meeting was duly constituted.)
2. The President, Priscilla Felisky Whitehead, opened the meeting by reading Jeremiah 6:16 and a lenten devotion, and then offering prayer.
3. The minutes of the last annual meeting--November 21, 1997--were approved.
4. Treasurer's report:
 - 4.1 The Treasurer, Charles Mercer, offered comment and an update (to March 6, 2000) on the treasurer's report attached to the agenda. The balance at 12/31/99 stood at \$12,777.63; as of 3/6/00, that amount had risen to \$13,199.83.
 - 4.2 It was noted that the positive balance reflected cost savings from not having held annual meetings or conferences since 1997; as well, costs for *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* for 1999 have not yet been paid. Charles West noted that Princeton Seminary continues to pick up the costs for mailing *Religion in Eastern Europe*.
 - 4.3 Walter Sawatsky observed that we have enough funding in the account to initiate some projects.
 - 4.4 Charles Mercer noted that the bank in which our funds are held is The Williamsport National Bank of Williamsport, Pennsylvania; the meeting decided to designate that bank as the depository for CAREE.
 - 4.5 Jim Payton was designated the second official signatory for writing checks on the account.
5. President's report:
 - 5.1 Priscilla presented the President's report. She indicated that the Executive Committee has carried on its work via telephone conference calls.
 - 5.2 She noted that CAREE had decided, some time ago, to hold a conference on the theme dealt with in the March 10 & 11, 2000, conference, but that we had had to delay the meeting from fall of 1998 to spring of 1999, then to November of 1999, and finally to March of 2000. In the meanwhile, we have sponsored no other meetings of CAREE.
 - 5.3 Priscilla noted that we have several representatives serving on the Europe Committee of the NCC. For the past three years, Bob Smylie has been our representative at the United Nations, with Edna McCallion as alternate representative.
6. Executive Secretary's report:
 - 6.1 Jim Payton gave the Executive Secretary's report. He updated paid memberships since the last report at an annual meeting: 62 for 1997; 45 for 1998; and 50 for 1999 (a list of the 1999 members was included in materials for the meeting). This reflects a steep drop from the mid-1990s (98 for 1995; 79 for 1996); however, the increase from 1998 to

1999 is encouraging.

6.2 He also reported that the *CAREE Communicator* has seen three issues in the last year, and that it should continue to appear three times per year: spring, summer/fall, and winter. 6.3 He read communications received from Robert Tobias and from Edna McCallion offering their comments on the theme of the conference and the annual meeting.

7. Report of Editor of *Religion in Eastern Europe*:

7.1 Walter Sawatsky offered the editor's report on *Religion in Eastern Europe* by way of a written report distributed at the meeting (see attached).

7.2 He noted that the website for REE can be accessed at: cis.georgefox.edu/ree.

7.3 The meeting expressed appreciation to Walter and to Sharon Linzey (serving as associate editor) for their work on REE.

7.4 The meeting noted that, whatever decision is taken regarding CAREE later in the meeting, REE must continue.

7.5 It was suggested that one way CAREE might continue would be to have its officers be on the Board of REE.

7.6 Paul Wilson will distribute issues of REE to new members of the Europe Committee.

7.7 Professor Elena Glavatskaya expressed appreciation for REE, which has been of great help to her in her professorial activities in Yekaterinburg University.

7.8 The members were encouraged to send to Walter the names and addresses of seminary/theological training schools in the Former Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe, so that they can be included on the mailing list to receive complimentary copies of REE.

7.9 Upon discussion, the meeting decided to send out REE three times yearly, in batches of two issues (instead of the current twice yearly, in batches of three issues); it was thought that this would more likely encourage reading the issues, and that (given weight constraints for bulk mailing) this might also allow for more material to appear in each issue, if that becomes possible or necessary.

7.10 The meeting urged the value of getting the articles in REE translated into Russian and discussed ways of accomplishing this.

8. Elections:

8.1 The meeting voted to extend Jim Payton's appointment as Executive Secretary for another three years (if this meeting decides that CAREE will continue).

8.2 The President noted that, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, no list of nominees for elections to offices had been prepared. She explained that, given the nature and purpose of this meeting--to decide whether CAREE should continue and, if so, to work toward a more explicit description of its purpose--asking people to be willing to stand for election to office seemed inappropriate. The meeting accepted this decision.

8.3 Jim noted that, with having no annual meetings, all the members of the Executive Committee--according to the by-laws-- have either already completed their full allowed allotment of membership or would do so in 2000.

8.4 The meeting voted to suspend the relevant by-laws in order to deal with the current situation of CAREE and its goals, and to ask the current Executive Committee to continue until the next annual meeting (if the present meeting votes to continue CAREE).

9. CAREE: future?
 - 9.1 Building on the presentations over the preceding day at this conference, the meeting engaged in extended discussion about CAREE's past, present, and possible future.
 - 9.2 It was noted that much of the membership had come into or was nearing retirement, and that younger members who might continue CAREE were not numerous at present; it was also noted that the clarity of purpose which CAREE knew during the height of the Cold War was gone.
 - 9.3 Given the above, the meeting concluded that CAREE either needed to articulate a new purpose which could serve Christians and churches in Eastern Europe in the contemporary situation and could attract members, or else that CAREE should pass out of existence (as organizations sometimes do).
 - 9.4 Discussion led to a recognition of two streams of activity for CAREE, if it should be continued: (1) the encouragement and enabling of interchange between academics in North America and Eastern Europe who are involved in the study of religion in Eastern Europe or academics of faith who study Eastern Europe; and (2) distribution of information among churches at denominational and local levels, information designed to encourage interest in, support of, and cooperation with Christians and churches in Eastern Europe.
 - 9.5 The meeting then passed, by majority vote, a motion to have CAREE continue.
 - 9.6 The meeting then voted to appoint a task force to come up with a clarification of CAREE's mission (as per the streams indicated in #9.4 above) at this point in time, to specify CAREE's tasks and prioritize them, and to come with nominations of appropriate leadership to carry these out (and who have agreed to accept such responsibilities, if elected).
 - 9.7 The meeting proposed names for the task force: Bruce Rigdon has expressed a desire and willingness to get more involved in CAREE again (and his denominational/church connections would be of help for one of the streams, especially); it was suggested that Gerald Shenk would be an excellent member (with his academic connections in both North America and Eastern Europe); Charles West and Paul Wilson agreed to serve on the task force; and others, as the task force members may decide among themselves.
 - 9.8 Walter Sawatsky will bring this request to Gerald Shenk when they get together near the end of March, 2000.
 - 9.9 The task force will keep Jim Payton, as Executive Secretary, apprized of their work. Jim will facilitate information flow during the process.
 - 9.10 The task force will try to complete its work within a two-to-three month timespan; the Executive Committee members will have opportunity to review the task force's proposals.
 - 9.11 The proposals, as developed by the task force and approved by the Executive Committee, will be mailed out to paid members by Jim Payton. A response card will be included in that mailing; on the card, members will be able to vote for or against the proposals and the nominees. The response card is to be returned to the Executive Secretary within one month of receipt of the proposals by the members. The resultant vote will determine the future, nature, and purpose of CAREE.
10. Gary Bittner reported on recent and upcoming activities.
11. The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Payton,
Scribe pro tem